

## PATENT

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
Robert Lance Cook et al.

Serial No.: N/A

Division of S/N: 09/512,895

Filed: Herewith

For: AN APPARATUS FOR  
RELEASABLY COUPLING  
TWO ELEMENTS

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Examiner: To Be Assigned

Attorney Docket No. 25791.83

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

BOX NON FEE AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

# **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Sir:**

Please amend the above entitled patent application as follows:

### In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 5-16.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:
- an outer tubular member defining one or more outer tubular member slots;
  - an inner tubular member defining one or more inner tubular member slots positioned within the outer tubular member; and
  - a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member, comprising:
    - a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the inner tubular member;